

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 and 21-74 are pending with entry of this amendment. Claims 1-3, 9, 19, 23-25, 31, 32, and 57 are amended herein. The remaining claims are originals, were previously presented, or were previously canceled.

These clarifying amendments introduce no new matter and support is replete throughout the specification as originally filed. Exemplary support for amended claim 1 is found in, e.g., claim 1 of U.S. Ser. No. 09/793,254 (now US 6,592,324)(as corrected in the Certificate of Correction that accompanies the '324 patent), which was incorporated by reference into the subject application (see, e.g., paragraph numbers [0058] and [0214] of the subject application). The remaining amendments to the claims were largely made to provide antecedent basis in view of the amendments to claim 1 and to address other matters of form.

These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as an abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter or agreement with any objection or rejection of record. Applicant respectfully requests that all of these amendments be entered.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

As noted above, the amendments to the specification have been made to specifically recite text from U.S. Ser. No. 09/793,254 (now US 6,592,324), which was incorporated by reference into the subject application (see, e.g., paragraph numbers [0058] and [0214] of the subject application). Applicant respectfully requests that all of these amendments be entered.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

As noted above, the amendments to the drawings have been made to specifically include certain figures from U.S. Ser. No. 09/793,254 (now US 6,592,324), which was incorporated by reference into the subject application (see, e.g., paragraph numbers [0058] and [0214] of the subject application). In particular, six new drawings are attached hereto on five sheets as Appendix A. Applicant respectfully requests that all of these amendments be entered.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants will subsequently submit an information disclosure statement that includes art cited during the prosecution of U.S. Ser. No. 09/793,254 (now US 6,592,324) as well as art cited during the prosecution of foreign counterparts to U.S. Ser. No. 09/793,254 (now US 6,592,324). In addition, information relating to other members of the family that includes the '324 patent will also be submitted.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The Action rejects claims 1-19 and 21-74 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In particular, the Action rejects claim 1 for including the phrases “the member rotational robots” and “each member transfer station”, which are asserted to lack antecedent basis. Applicants have amended the claims to delete these phrases or have otherwise provided proper antecedent basis for the terminology used in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that all of these rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Action rejects claims 1-19 and 21-74 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Hutchins (US 5,928,952 or EP 915,341) in view of Brandt (newly cited and applied), Amano (US 4,835,707), Kedar (US 6,323,035), Ishibashi (US 5,087,423), and Stylli (US 5,985,214). Applicants respectfully submit that none of the art cited in the Action, whether considered individually or in any combination, teaches or suggests all of the limitations of any of these rejected claims as amended herein for the reasons stated below.

As amended, claim 1 recites a high throughput processing system that includes a plurality of rotational robots in which each of the rotational robots has a reach which defines a work perimeter associated with that rotational robot. In addition, at least one of the rotational robots comprises a grasping mechanism that comprises moveably coupled arms that are structured to grasp an object in which at least one arm comprises a pivot member having a support surface to support the object and a height adjusting surface that pushes the object into contact with the support surface when the arms grasp the object. The high throughput processing system of claim 1 also includes at least one device associated

with each of the rotational robots and the associated work perimeters, and one or more transfer stations in which each transfer station is associated with two work perimeters.

In contrast, none of the cited art teaches or suggests a rotational robot that comprises a grasping mechanism that includes moveably coupled arms that are structured to grasp an object in which at least one arm comprises a pivot member having a support surface to support the object and a height adjusting surface that pushes the object into contact with the support surface when the arms grasp the object. Therefore, even if the cited art were combined it would still not teach all of the limitations of claim 1 as amended herein. As a consequence, claim 1 is non-obvious over this cited art as are all of the claims which depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that all of these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants believe that all pending claims are definite and non-obvious over the cited art, and accordingly are in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a formal notice of allowance at an early date.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be of further assistance, please telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

In the event that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that further extensions and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-1885 referencing docket No. P1001US10.

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Respectfully submitted,

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